

Appl. No. 09/681,855
Amdt. dated July 19, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 18, 2005

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

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Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 12-15, and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under Montalcini (US 6,865,718) in view of Lo (US 5,699,083).

Response:

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The applicant has identified differences between independent claim 1 of the instant application and the Montalcini patent and the Lo patent.

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Regarding claim 1, the examiner states on page 2 of the Office action of May 18, 2005 that Montalcini discloses a pointing unit installed inside the housing. However, Montalcini does not disclose a pointing unit but rather a computer 109 having memory 114 and processor 115 as shown in Fig. 1A and described in column 1, lines 29-31: "...computer 109 having memory 114 and processor 115." Nevertheless, Montalcini teaches a memory and processor that are clearly not disposed within the housing of a pointing device (mouse or otherwise).

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Additionally, regarding claim 1, the examiner states on page 2 of the Office action of May 18, 2005 that Montalcini discloses a pointing device comprising a control unit. However, the control unit 100 disclosed by Montalcini shown in Fig. 1A comprises the computer 109, memory 114, and processor 115. Montalcini clearly teaches a control unit 100 that is not

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disposed within the housing of a pointing device.

Further, regarding claim 1, Lo does teach a light source disposed on a single side of a wheel. In particular, Lo specifically teaches that the light source functions in conjunction

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with a sensor, as described in column 3, lines 3-7: "The light source 29 is disposed such that the light emitted thereby...and the sensor 30 is located near the periphery of the wheel 17 so as to receive the light passing via the periphery of the wheel 17." However, neither the Lo nor the Montalcini patents teach a pointing device wherein "the computer
5 transmits a state signal to the pointing device," as recited in claim 1.

The examiner states on page 4 of the Office action of May 18, 2005 that Montalcini discloses a state signal being transmitted to the pointing device. However, Montalcini does not teach a pointing device wherein "the computer transmits a state signal to the pointing
10 device," as recited in claim 1. Specifically, Lo does not teach any transmission, and Montalcini teaches only one-way communication by electrical transmission from the pointing device to the computer. Figs. 1 and 3 of the Montalcini patent fail to teach or suggest the transmission of a state signal from a computer to a pointing device.

15 Applicant believes that the present invention's illumination mode according to a state signal would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given the teachings of Montalcini and Lo.

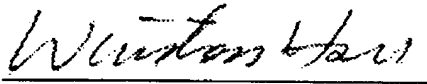
Claims 2-22 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

20 Reconsideration of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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